(c) what are the different tribal and backward areas where steps have been taken to develop horticulture with that Central allocation; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a), (c) and (d) The ongoing Central Sector/Centrally Sponsored Schemes for horticulture development implemented through State Governments are production oriented and not area specific. However, to give a focused attention for development of Horticulture in Tribal/Backward Areas during 9th Plan, it is proposed to implement a Pilot Project for integrated Development of Horticulture in Hilly/Tribal Areas. The Scheme is yet to be approved by the Government.

(b) the funds released to Orissa under the on-going central sector/centrally sponsored horticulture development schemes during the last 3 years is given below:—

Year	Funds released (Rs. in lakhs)
1995-96	407.63
1996-97	640.10
1997-98	754.03

In addition, the National Horticulture Board has also provided financial support to the State of Orissa for demand based projects/programmes as per details given below:—

(Rs. in lakh)

	Grant-in-aid	Soft Loan	Total
1995-96	15.80	41.05	56.85
1996-97	—	101.70	101.70
1997-98	5.00	—	5.00

Import of Onions

496. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Agriculture Ministry received any request from the Commerce Ministry to take steps through NAFED to import onions; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Production of Food Grains

497. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total production of wheat, paddy and pulses in the country, State-wise, alongwith the total shortfall/excess production;

(b) if there is a shortfall, what steps are being taken to increase the production;

(c) what is the percentage of exports of these products both in terms of value and quantity; and

(d) what steps are being taken to control prices of these commodities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) A statement giving State-wise production of wheat, rice and pulses for the last three years (1995-96, 1996-97, 1997-98) is annexed as statement (*See* below).

(b) In order to increase the production and productivity of various foodgrains in the country, the Government is implementing crop specific development programmes and schemes in which incentives are provided to farmers for use of quality seeds and location specific hybrid varieties, application of integrated pest management, propagation of scientific water management including micro irrigation, improved farm